Violation of democracy in Panchayats

2284. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national public hearing exposes the blatant violation of democracy in the Panchayats in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere; and

(b) what measures Government propose to take to streamline the functioning keeping in view the urgency in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working of Panchayati Raj Institutions

†2285. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that in order to make the Panchayati Raj Institutions more effecive, a conference of their representatives was held recently;

(b) if so, the major demands and suggestions put forth by the representatives during the discussion held therein;

(c) the reaction of Government to those demands and suggestions; and

(d) the financial and administrative rights which are proposed to be offered to streamline these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Following a series of seven Round Tables of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj or their representatives with the Union Minister between July and December, 2004 and two meetings of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries incharge of Panchayati Raj with the Union Secretary, the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj was held at Kochi on the 5th and 6th August, 2005. The meeting focused on the measures taken by the States/UTs for Activity Mapping in order to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.